

CITY OF EDGEWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2004
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Link called the regular meeting of the Edgewood City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers of the Edgewood City Building. The following council members were present: Bill Grady, Dale Henson, David MacMillan, Mark Steffen, Ray Spears, Jeff Schreiber, and Scott Guenther. Also in attendance were City Attorney Frank Wichmann, City Administrator Roger Rolfes and City Clerk Jeanette Kemper.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Grady added discussion of Mr. Rolfes' 4/8/04 memo to council regarding city building project and field usage as item #20 under New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Guenther made a **motion** to adopt the March 22, 2004 minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed: 7 - 0.**

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Link reported on the following:

- Mayor's meeting will be April 17th at NKAPC at 9 a.m. They will be discussing ALS & BLS.
- Attended a ceremony at the Gateway Technical College where St. Elizabeth donated \$1 million to the school for a collaborated nursing program between the school and the hospital.
- Attended Governor Fletcher's appearance at NKU.
- Congratulated Mr. Rolfes for his recent appearance in the NKU magazine.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Rolfes had nothing to report.

Staff Reports – Council reviewed reports from the following staff members: City Administrator, City Clerk, EMS/Fire, General Services, Parks, Properties, Public Safety, and Recreation.

Cole + Russell Architects – Facilities Update – Dave Acomb presented final estimate figures on the city building construction costs. Estimated construction costs with alternates are \$5,509,888 plus 5% construction contingency \$275,494, total estimate is \$5,785,382. Mr. Acomb stated that the cost of steel had recently increased. Bids for the city building are due May 4th.

CITIZENS DESIRING RECOGNITION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jeff Hamlin, 3055 Ashley Drive, recently met with Mr. Rolfes to obtain approval for installing a shadow box fence. Mr. Rolfes advised Mr. Hamlin that his property did not comply with the regulations in order to install the fence but he could install it if he obtained signatures from his side and rear neighbors or appeal the decision to the Board of Adjustments. Mr. Hamlin asked council how does someone comply with this ordinance? Mr. Rolfes advised council that he was denied permission due to the fact that there were no other solid privacy fences in view of his backyard, nor were there any extenuating circumstances, so therefore in order to install the fence the next option would be to obtain permission from surrounding neighbors or appeal to the Board of Adjustments. Council reiterated Mr. Rolfes' findings to Mr. Hamlin.

Planning and zoning appointment - Mayor Link introduced Paul Darpel who is replacing Tim Theissen as Edgewood's representative to the Kenton County Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission until December 31, 2007. Mr. Darpel stated that he has been a resident of Edgewood all his life, has a law practice in Crestview Hills, and looks forward to serving on the commission. Mayor Link read municipal order 2004-06 confirming the appointment of Paul Darpel to the unexpired term as the Edgewood representative to the Kenton County Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission – Mr. Guenther made a **motion** to adopt municipal order 2004-06; seconded by Mr. Henson. **Motion passed 7 – 0.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brookwood Commons Schreiber Development – Mr. Wichmann stated that he should have final documents at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Mr. Rolfes' 4/12/04 memo on city building project and field usage – Mayor Link and Mr. Rolfes received emails from several residents recently regarding opposition to the city building project and usage of the soccer fields. Mr. Grady stated that he was puzzled by the complaints from the soccer parents who feel that they are not being treated fairly regarding usage of the field at Freedom Park. He stated that the city has three baseball fields and one soccer field and asked why that is? He asked why isn't one of the baseball fields a soccer field then each sport would have two fields each. Mr. Spears stated there aren't enough resources devoted to soccer. Mr. Spears stated that the fields should be equally divided between each sport and the city should find out how many Edgewood kids participate in these sports. Mayor Link stated that a few years ago he talked to Judge Murgatroyd about using the area at the top of Doe Run Lake dam for soccer fields – Mr. Schreiber stated that he advised Dixie Soccer about the plan at Doe Run and no one ever pursued it and now Independence uses that space. Mr. Schreiber suggested making a small soccer field at the end of Snow Field in Presidents Park – the goals would have to be moved each time, but it would provide a small practice field. Mr. Rolfes stated that currently the soccer field is closed for two weeks due to re-seeding, which it desperately needs, and some soccer people aren't happy with that but the field has to be re-seeded especially since they play in the spring and in the fall. Mr. Grady said it seems to him that the other sports are favored over soccer. Mr. Spears requested that the city find out how many kids play soccer and baseball and balance the fields accordingly. Mr. Rolfes agreed to obtain those numbers. The city will also look into the possibility of creating a small soccer field at the end of Snow Field.

Building projects – In response to the emails received about the building projects, Mr. Spears wanted to address some of Mr. Rolfes' comments. In regards to communications he stated that a lot of people still don't know what's going on and do not know what the current costs are. He stressed the need to make the residents aware of the updated costs. Mr. Rolfes stated that the website is in the process of being updated, it should be completed this week. Mr. Schreiber suggested putting a message on the marquee advising the residents to check out the project updates on the website. Mr. Spears stated that he is disappointed in how the Senior Center is looking so far; it looks out of place especially next to the brick shelter and restrooms. He further stated that it is costing too much and mentioned that St. Pius' multi-purpose center, which is all brick and is twice as big, cost a little over \$700,000 and we're spending a lot more than that on a metal building. Mr. Schreiber stated that St. Pius does not have to pay prevailing wage and they got a lot of deals to bring the cost down, it's not a good comparison. Mr. Spears stated that he wonders what the vote would have been for the Senior Center if we were told that we were going to spend approximately \$900,000 on a metal building – he doesn't believe council would have voted for that. Mr. Steffen said that we're not spending that much because of receiving a \$500,000 grant. Mr. Spears referred to Mr. Rolfes' memo and stated that the entire council did not agree to proceed as we did on that building. Mr. Guenther said the only thing council disagreed on was constructing with metal or Ceko rock. Mr. MacMillan stated that we all would rather have brick but it was too expensive. Mr. Spears said that we seem to have plenty of money to do other things and he wished that we had done that building correctly. Mr. Steffen stated that everyone agreed that we needed a new firehouse and police station, the only disagreement came down to either remodeling the current city building and keep administration here and build a new fire and police building, or did it make better financial sense to build one new building. He further stated that by a vote of 6 – 1 including the vote in favor of by Mr. Spears, council voted that it made more sense to build one new building. Mr. Spears stated that he voted for that when the cost was \$5,000,000 but it is no longer that figure. Mr. Grady stated that no one ever read in the paper that there was any ~~contingent~~ [contention] at any of the meetings and that there was ever a vote of 5 – 2 on the issue of keeping this building. He said it's never been in the paper because the reporters call up and ask what happened last night - that was never put in. He says that why a lot of people don't know what's going on. He wrote two letters to the editor and received two responses to each letter that he wrote, four in total. Those responses agreed with Mr. Grady and thinks it's foolish to tear down this building, he said we're going to waste \$2,000,000 by tearing down this building. Mr. Henson said that we don't have a cost estimate that would support that.

Mr. Henson said the difference between tearing this building down and keeping it and remodeling it, remains the same, and it makes better long-term sense to build. Mr. MacMillan said let's save \$6,000,000 and leave the firehouse where it is, leave administration here, and move the police to the house next door. Mr. Grady said we're foolish for tearing this building down for a city of our size, it's a long-term debt and we keep saying that there will not be any tax increases because of this project. He further stated that if down the road 10 years if there are shortfalls and someone says we have to raise taxes, will anybody have the guts to say that it's because we spent that money 10 years ago, no, they'll say it's for roads or something else. Mr. MacMillan said to analyze why we need the new firehouse and you'll find out why we need this building too. Mr. Steffen stated he has not received any negative comments about the project, people ask him why it's needed and once he explains why then they're in favor of it. Mr. Schreiver commented that the emails were not negative, it's just people asking questions, he hasn't heard any negative comments and would like to see Mr. Grady's letters of complaints. Mr. Grady said he received phone calls not letters. Mr. Spears again stressed the need for communication to the residents. Mr. Steffen commented that the issue has been discussed at open council meetings, it's been in the newsletter and in the newspaper, and it's been on display at the Taste of Edgewood and at the open houses. Mr. Spears said people are remembering old information; we need to get the updated information out. Mr. Rolfes stated that the website will be updated this week, the newsletter will be out in a few weeks and it'll have updated information, but we can still send the residents a letter if desired. Mr. Schreiver said he searched the internet for articles in the newspaper regarding the building project and found that since December 2002, it was in the paper 15 times; he doesn't know what else the city could do to inform the public. Mr. Spears thanked Mr. Rolfes for updating the website and the minutes. Mayor Link stated that the brick on the senior center was changed to match the brick on the shelter and we saved money by doing that.

ORDINANCES, MUNICIPAL ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Municipal Order 2004-05 FEMA grant for fire department training equipment – Mr. MacMillan made a **motion** to adopt municipal order 2004-05; seconded by Mr. Spears. **Motion passed 7 – 0.**

Municipal Order 2004-07 Awarding the Senior Center furniture bid to LB Distribution – Mr. Henson made a **motion** to adopt municipal order 2004-07; seconded by Mr. Grady. **Motion passed 7 – 0.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Executive Order 2004-03 Appointing Paul Darpel to the unexpired term as the Edgewood representative to the Kenton County and Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission.
- 1st annual Mayor's Golf Outing to be held on Friday, May 21 at Devou Golf Course – registration deadline is May 14 – fee is \$70 per player (teams of four); which includes golf, golf cart, door prizes, and steak dinner.
- The Edgewood Garden Club is having their 1st annual amateur gardener recognition award – nominations should be made by May 21. Forms can be picked up at the city building.
- Softball and volleyball league registrations are due April 16th.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schreiver made a **motion** to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.; seconded by Mr. MacMillan. **Motion passed 7 – 0.**

Mayor John D. Link

Jeanette Kemper, City Clerk
Date: _____